



Six artists express their “Artistic View” at the Toyota Art Gallery 168

Aruba’s newest art gallery located on the outskirts of Oranjestad hosted the opening of a new exposition on Wednesday, August 8 titled “The View.” Six world-renowned artists that reside in Aruba have interpreted this subject to present it in various aspects and mediums, and it is one of the most colorful presentations yet in the recently opened gallery.

Curator Michiko Takatsu, a Japanese expatriate, has included some of her Hari-e paper art from her “Wave of Zen” series. A number of the sixteen pieces she has in this show are devoted to her new fascination, digital creation on canvas, which is an excellent example of what beautiful work can be created with a computer and artistic imagination.

Particularly noteworthy are the fourteen magnificent watercolors of Gerda van Leeuwen, who depicts nature in her own very unique fashion, including a series of four paintings titled “A Room with a View.” A large part of the show is devoted to the work of Maria Latorre, well known as an artist and teacher on Aruba. This is one of Maria’s last expositions, as she has plans to relocate to Holland in a few months. Maria is originally from Mexico, and her acrylics are quite diverse in subject, ranging from colorful butterflies to mystical portraits.

Additionally adorning the gallery walls are the impressionistic oils on canvas landscapes of Nancy Folklinga and the stylistic and very individual work of graphic artist Eduardo Valbuena. An additional treat is the thoughtful works of Irene Peterson, an interesting artist that does not display all that often and works in mixed media.

Additionally on display are the works of eight fledgling artists who participated in the gallery’s summer art contest for island youth. The promising pieces of these aspiring artists won them beautiful painting sets donated by Van Dorp, plus gift certificates from Mariska and Treasure Box, which will help them with their back-to-school needs, and art painting classes from Gerda van Leeuwen. The enthusiastic young artists are Kimberly Angela, Diandra Heyliger, Xindrah Dankerlui, Junise Varis, Tyfunney Garcia, Sofia Paola Valbuena and Dianiera Heyliger, ranging in ages from six to thirteen years old.

This lovely new show of diverse artistic vision is on display until September 2, and can be viewed daily except Mondays from 1:30 until 6:30. Michiko is always on premises to welcome visitors and explain the works, and also offers digital portraiture made to order. The gallery is located midway between the large supermarket complex by the Sasaki Highway and the Valero station at the beginning of Oranjestad, just a block up the road from the CMB bank. For information or directions, telephone 561-5389 or e-mail artgallery168@gmail.com.